Dear Phil, 3/27/85

In your 3/21 you ask why "no one mentions" the flophouse roof or next-door windows as possible sniper locations.

Officialdom didn't because with a bird in hand they were not about to beat the bushes.

I didn't because for my own and what I regard as good reasons I was confident that neither is relevant.

You will exhaust and frustrate yourself if you engage in idle theorizing, to which there is no limit, without establishing an at least adequate factual basis for theorizing.

Because it was never in my thinking I did not look into the possibilities of getting onto the roof from the next-door building. There was a single skylight in the flophouse corridor but no means of getting to it without a ladder, which was not there, and I do not know whether or not it was sealed but I presume it had to be to keep weather out.

Did it not occur to you that a rooftop sniper would be visible to themany people on the ground at the Lorraine? I doubt the assassin(s) ever considered a rooftop. The assassin had to lurk even if he knew King's schedule because King was notorious for not keeping to any schedule. Getting off a roof entails extra time and problems and nobody dared remain there because search was certain.

I had and have no reason to suspect the next-door building so I never looked into access and exit. Remember, the assassin always wants to get away. Otherwise he'd not use a rifle from a distance when he could always get closeup.

Best regards,